

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 061347Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2232

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8333

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, LE

SUBJECT: CHARGE LANE VISIT TO EAST BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 8320

1. CHARGE LANE AND PARTY OVERNIGHTED AT ST. ROCH HOTEL (NOT MONTEMAR AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED). ON NOV 6, PARTY DEPARTED HOTEL AT 0910, FIRST CALLING ON SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE KAMAL ASSAD, THEN ON FORMER PRESIDENT FRANGIE, AT NOON ON MARONITE PATRIARCH KHURAYSH, AND RETURNED HOTEL 1500 LOCAL.

2. RIGHTIST PERSPECTIVE. PRESS CARRIED CHAMOUN'S AND CHARGE'S COMMENTS AFTER CALL ON CHAMOUN NOV 5. ASKED IF VISIT INDICATED NEW U.S. INITIATIVE IN LEBANON, CHAMOUN RESPONDED, "NO, THE VISIT HAD AS ITS SOLE OBJECT AN OFFER OF ASSISTANCE," AND STRESSED U.S. OFFER TO ASSIST REORGANIZATION OF SECURITY SERVICES. CHARGE QUOTED AS SAYING HIS VISIT WAS PART OF ORDINARY ACTIVITIES OF U.S. EMBASSY. AMSHITE RADIO NOV 6 REPORTED CHARGE'S CALLS ON SARKIS, CHAMOUN, GEMAYEL AND FRANGIE WERE "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF HIS VISIT TO LEADERS OF THE LEBANESE FRONT."

3. LEFTIST PERSPECTIVE. "BEIRUT" NOV 6 CARRIED REPORTS ABOUT NEW "IMMINENT MILITARY ROUND" IN LEBANON, AND SAID "CIA HAS INSTRUCTED ITS MEN TO
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RETURN TO LEBANON AND START THEIR ACTIVITIES IN AREAS

CONTROLLED BY THE NATIONALIST FORCES...THIS INFORMATION
WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMERICAN ACTIVITY IN THE FORM
OF VISITS BY THE U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO CHAMOUN
AND DAHDAH."

4. L'ORIENT LE JOUR NOV 6 CARRIED ERRONEOUS
REPORT CHARGE HAD ALREADY MET FRANGIE, PATRIARCH
AND MARONITE ORDER OF MONKS LEADER CHARBEL KASSIS.
AN NAHAR AND AL-MUHARRIR CARRIED ACCURATE BUT
INCOMPLETE ACCOUNTS OF CHARGE'S CALLS.
LANE

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